
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 2452

Brief Description: Creating a wildlife rehabilitation advisory committee.

Sponsors: Representatives Appleton, Campbell, Rolfes, Seaquist, Barlow, McCoy, Upthegrove, Hunt and Chase.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Establishes a wildlife rehabilitation advisory committee within the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Hearing Date: 1/17/2008

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is in the early stages of developing a wildlife rehabilitation program that provides funding to private rehabilitation professionals [RCW 77.12.467]. The funding from the program may be used by the rehabilitation facilities for a number of activities, including diagnostic and lab services, equipment purchase, and the cost of continuing education. Revenue to fund the program comes in part from a two dollar charge collected when personalized plates are purchased from the Department of Licencing [RCW 46.16.606].

The WDFW is also responsible for adopting rules that relate to how wildlife affected by oil spills may be handled. These rules relate to matters such as the handling and care of oiled birds, certification requirements for those wishing to aid in wildlife rescue activities, and the establishment of training exercises [RCW 90.56.110].

Private facilities interested in conducting wildlife rehabilitation are required to be licensed by the WDFW and have their licenses renewed in the year 2010 [RCW 77.12.469].

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

The director of the WDFW is required to establish a wildlife rehabilitation advisory committee ("advisory committee") composed of private wildlife rehabilitation professionals and WDFW employees with expertise in wildlife rehabilitation and the licencing of rehabilitation facilities. If possible, the advisory committee must include at least five private wildlife rehabilitation professionals, with no more than two individuals being employed with any one facility. The director of the WDFW is also instructed to, if possible, include at least two members of a statewide organization representing the interests of wildlife rehabilitation facilities on the advisory committee.

The role of the advisory committee is to facilitate communication and partnership between the WDFW and private wildlife rehabilitation facilities. This includes improving information exchange, aiding the WDFW in tracking wildlife diseases, advising on the implementation of the WDFW's existing rehabilitation and oiled birds programs, providing feedback on how the WDFW licenses rehabilitation facilities, and identifying potential public investments in wildlife rehabilitation resources that would benefit the WDFW.

Meetings of the advisory committee can be called by the director of the WDFW or by a majority of the advisory committee members. Each member of the advisory committee that is not an employee of the WDFW is entitled to travel reimbursement.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.